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The Rev. Dr. Todd exhibited a Sikh manuscript, called the Gorund, the gift of Joseph Burke, Esq., Assistant Surgeon of the 40th Regiment, to the library of the Academy. An accompanying letter from the donor stated that the manuscript had been found on the battle-field of Aliwal, one of the recently fought Indian engagements. It was in the Sanscrit character, quite perfect, and in excellent preservation.

The Rev. Dr. Todd read a letter from the Rev. Dr. Spratt, forwarding a donation to the museum of a carved figure of the Virgin and child, found at Donabate; also an antique bell, which had been discovered in Kildare, beneath the site of an ancient building, in sinking the foundation for the chapel.

The President communicated the second series of the results of observations made at the magnetical observatory of Trinity College.

The Rev. Samuel Haughton, F. T. C. D., read a paper on an instrument termed a friction sledge, for stopping railway carriages at termini or side lines, invented by Mr. Wilfred Haughton, and containing an account of some theoretical deductions drawn from accurate experiments made with the sledge, by permission of the Dublin and Kingstown Railway Company, at the Ringsend Docks.

Mr. Hancock made some remarks on the great expense of obtaining protection for such inventions, owing to the present state of the law of patents. The cost of taking out a patent for the invention of Mr. Haughton would be, in England, £110; in Ireland, £135; and in Scotland, £75; being above £300 altogether. Although an investigation would answer for the three countries, yet the law of patents was such that inventors would have to take out three patents. The expense of a patent was greater in Ireland than in any other state in the world; and it arose not necessarily from the nature of the thing, but from the mode of paying certain public officers. This defect in the law of patents was a very great impediment in the way of inventors receiving the just reward of their exertions. It resulted from the supposition that patents were injurious to the community, and that the more they were restrained the better. He believed that they were most beneficial to the community, because they prevented inventive genius from being wasted away. In the absence of a system of patents inventors would be disposed to keep the fruits of their originality secret; and consequently they would be lost to the public. Therefore, he thought that a more perfect system of patents, by which every discovery would be secured to the community, and the just reward of his exertions insured to the discoverer, was much to be desired.

Dr. Madden read a paper containing an account of a proposal made in 1617 to apply magnetism as a means of communicating intelligence, by a method resembling the electric telegraph.

" The attention turned to the properties of the magnet, by our knowledge of the advantages derived from the mariner's compass, led to the first speculation on the possibility of the same agency being made a means of rapidly communicating intelligence between persons widely separated. The project in Latin poetry, of the magnetic telegraph, of the Jesuit Strada, conceived 233 years ago, was the precursor of the electric telegraph of our times. The application of the peculiar properties of the magnet to the purpose of navigation is claimed for a Neapolitan of the thirteenth century, of the town of Melfi, in the Terra di Lavaro. The first European navigator, however, who visited the Indian seas, had not to teach the Arab and